

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS

REFS: A) GENEVA 1557; B) GENEVA 1391

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

1. UNLIKE ALLIED ATTITUDE REPORTED REF A, WE ARE NOT YET
RESIGNED TO WEAK AND AMBIGUOUS TEXT ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH
WILL ESPECIALLY INFLUENCE ATTITUDE OF PRESS TOWARD CSCE
RESULT AS A WHOLE. IN YOUR CONTACTS WITH SOVIET DELEGATION,
YOU SHOULD ALLUDE TO INCREASED ATTENTION US JOURNALISTS ARE
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GIVING CSCE AS THEY BEGIN TO FOCUS ON POSSIBLE 35-NATION

SUMMIT, AND POINT OUT IT IS IN MOSCOW'S INTEREST TO NEGOTIATE A TEXT ON JOURNALISTS WHICH WESTERN PRESS CAN CONSIDER A REASONABLE RESULT.

2. CONCERNING "MENTALLY REGISTERED" TEXT REF B, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME STRENGTHENING AND QUALIFICATION OF PHRASE "ON THE BASIS OF ARRANGEMENTS," WHICH IS SO GENERAL AS TO INVITE MISUNDERSTANDING OR MISCHIEF. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE SHARE FRG DISTASTE FOR ANY IMPLICATION OF NUMERICAL EQUIVALENCE OF JOURNALIST VISAS, BUT WOULD ENCOURAGE DELEGATION TO PURSUE RECIPROCITY QUALIFIER IF WORDING CAN

BE WORKED OUT TO AVOID SUCH IMPLICATION.

3. WE ENDORSE DELEGATION POSITIONS REF A ON TIMING OF GRANTING VISAS AND INCLUSION OF REFERENCE TO "TECHNICAL STAFFS."

4. ACCESS TO INDIVIDUALS FOR NEWSGATHERING PURPOSES IS NO DOUBT ONE OF SOREST POINTS FOR SOVIETS, AND ANY AGREEMENT LANGUAGE WE MIGHT GET WOULD BE INHERENTLY DIFFICULT TO MONITOR IN TERMS OF COMPLIANCE OR EVASION BY THE SOVIETS. AT THE SAME TIME, WORKING JOURNALISTS DO NOT GENERALLY ASSUME THAT IT IS USG OBLIGATION TO SECURE NEWS SOURCES FOR THEM IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THUS THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE ONE ELEMENT WE COULD CONCEDE AT THIS POINT. DELEGATION COMMENTS WOULD BE WELCOME.

5. AGREE WITH DELEGATION COMMENT REF A THAT SWISS LANGUAGE ON EXPULSION OF JOURNALISTS IS SO WEAK AS TO BE VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS. YOU SHOULD, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, CONTINUE TO SUPPORT POSITION IN PARA 1 OF GENEVA 573, I.E.--NO EXPULSION FOR LEGITIMATE PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES. IF UNABLE TO SECURE ANYTHING BETTER THAN SWISS TEXT, YOU SHOULD OPPOSE ANY REFERENCE TO THE SUBJECT. INGERSOLL

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